

## CITY OF LANSING

# GO GREEN! NEWSLETTER



### Summer Wrap-Up



As Summer comes to a close, here are a few things to keep in mind:

**Food is Needed all Year Round!** Supplies at area food banks are being stretched to the limit and there is a critical need for food and cash donations. You can help by participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Faith Sharing Food Drive at L&L Food Stores in Lansing, which is taking place August 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Those who donate food and/or funds benefit from federal tax deductions *and* make a difference in the lives of hungry Lansing area families. You can also donate cash or canned goods to [the Greater Lansing Food Bank](#) or volunteer to help out with the [Garden Project's](#) gleaning program. Fresh produce, which would otherwise go to waste, is harvested by volunteers to help feed the hungry. For other ways to help meet the area's food needs, check out [Michigan Harvest Gathering](#).

**Back to school.... Already?** As the school year approaches, it's time to start thinking about how to help your child reduce their environmental impact. One great way is to pack a zero-waste lunch, full of reusable rather than disposable items. It has been estimated that on average a school-age child using a disposable lunch generates **67 pounds of waste per school year**. That equates to **18,760 pounds** of lunch waste for just one average-size elementary school. Packing a zero waste lunch not only saves landfill space, it also saves money. On average, you will save \$246.60 per child each school year. For more information about how to pack a zero waste lunch, or create a waste free lunch program at your child's school or your place of employment, check out [WasteFree-Lunches.org](#).

**Dress Green!** As you start shopping for back-to-school clothes and warmer fall fashions, look for ways to buy eco-conscious garments such as organic, fair trade, or thrift store clothing. It's also important to remember to reuse and recycle the items you no longer wear. Each person generates an estimated 68 pounds of clothing waste a year, which accounts for 4% of the municipal waste stream. **All textiles, regardless of condition can be sent to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.** Both organizations will **recycle** what can't be sold in stores or shipped to secondary markets.

### August 2010

#### Learn WaterSense

In 2006, the EPA launched [WaterSense](#) to promote water conservation. Patterned after the EPA's Energy Star Program, the WaterSense logo is placed on products that use water efficiently and reduce pollution. According to WaterSense statistics, "if all U.S. households installed water-efficient appliances, the country would save more than 3 trillion gallons of water and over \$18 billion dollars per year!" Save water, money and energy by purchasing WaterSense labeled products!



#### Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale

On Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am-3pm, there will be a [Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale](#) at the MSU Recycling and Surplus Store parking lot. Consider investing in a rain barrel to save money and energy. The system collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams. A rain barrel saves homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during summer months.

The average home contains over 125 chemicals which we come into contact with every day. Here are some tips for reducing the chemical load of your home:

- **Ditch the harsh chemical cleaners.** Almost every surface in your home can be [cleaned, disinfected and deodorized](#) using everyday household items like vinegar, baking soda and liquid soap.
- **Clear the air.** NASA scientists have determined that having 1 six inch houseplant for every 100 square feet is enough to clear the air of dangerous toxins like benzene which are present in most homes. Check out the [top air purifying plants](#).
- **Reevaluate your beauty products.** Products such as make-up and hair spray are also responsible for introducing chemicals into the home. To evaluate the safety of the items you use, check out [Skin Deep](#).



## CLIMATE CORNER



### Transition to a Cool Roof

To slow the pace of global warming, researchers and policy makers are encouraging the use of lighter colors for rooftops and streets worldwide. Dark, non-reflective surfaces absorb heat from the sun and create a "heat-island" effect, plus a greater need for air conditioning. Lighter surfaces reflect the sun's rays back to outer space, reducing ground-surface temperatures and overall energy requirements. Because of the significant energy savings and emission reductions that result from the use of [cool roofs](#), the Department of Energy (DOE) is aggressively promoting their use. According to DOE Secretary, Steven Chu, "when you're thinking of putting on a new roof, make it white. It costs no more to make it white than to make it black. Cool roofs are one of the quickest and lowest-cost ways we can reduce our global carbon emissions." Cool roofs will not only save you money by reducing your energy costs, but they also make you eligible for rebates through your utility provider's residential energy efficiency program as well as federal tax incentives. For more information, contact [Superior Services, RSH Inc.](#), a local cool roof installer and Go Green! Business Pledge Member.

## Save the Earth one Yogurt Cup at a Time!

### TerraCycle: Earn Cash for Your Trash

TerraCycle works by paying you cash for your trash. By sending them specific, non-recyclable waste materials like yogurt cups, cereal boxes and juice pouches you can earn money for your school, church or organization. TerraCycle then turns those items into more than 50 different affordable, eco-friendly products, which are available at local major retailers like Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Petco and Office Max. With these partners, TerraCycles works to find innovative uses for everyone's garbage - preventing thousands of tons of waste from going to landfills. Visit [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) to learn more about how to outsmart waste.

## August Events

**Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> - National Night Out:** Bring your family out to Gier Community Center to enjoy food, games, talent show, raffle and much more. This event is open to the public. Come out and meet your neighbors at this major family event.

**Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> – Urban Camping:** Overnight camping outdoors in the city will offer an enriching evening of nature, sports, games, crafts, and fun. For further information call 483-4313.

**Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – Salsa Fest 2010:** Join The Garden Project in making salsa! Learn how to make use of tomatoes and how to can them properly from 6-8 p.m. at the Foster Park Resource Center

**August 13-15—[Great Lakes Folk Festival](#):** A free unique arts fair, music, county and multi-ethnic festival, featuring hands-on activity workshops, cultural heritage showcases of the nation's Upper Midwest and a sampling of the best of traditional artists from around the country and the world. Come check out the Go Green! Initiative booth while you're there!